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Teens sought in strawberry vendor theft

CRIME Police are investigating a strawberry robbery after a vendor was assaulted and robbed yesterday afternoon.

Police said that at 3 p.m., three teenage males approached a strawberry vendor at the Giant Tiger parking lot in Manotick.

The vendor was pushed and robbed of his fanny pack, which contained proceeds from the day's sales, and his cellphone.

The suspects fled the area on foot. There were no injuries.

Police are now seeking three teenagers, around 16 or 17 years old.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Business pg 7

Ericsson wins bid for Nortel wireless

Celebrity Buzz pg 14

Crisis of faith for Travolta?

Sports pg 8

Contador clinches Tour

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Festival

Turkish dance

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Performers from the Youth Folk Dance and Music Ensemble from the Republic of Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism show their moves during the Ottawa Turkish Festival at Confederation Park yesterday. Story, page 2.

Flooded basements

Massive rainfall leads to a messy cleanup for hundreds

TIM WIECLAWSKI and TRACEY TONG

Like hundreds of homeowners in the city's west end, Jeff and Cathy Flanagan spent most of the weekend cleaning up after Friday's downpour.

The Flanagans had around two feet of water in their basement after the cap on the backup flow pipe burst open releasing a "geyser" that quickly turned the room into a wading pool.

Over the weekend, the city received 275 calls for water in basements, according to Michel Chevalier, the city's manager of wastewater and drainage operations.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Stittsville's Jeff Flanagan cleans up after nearly two feet of water flooded his basement.

"We strongly encourage people to call us when they have water in the basement. We need to know who was affected by the flood," said Chevalier. "If we have one house with a sewer backup, it means one thing. If we have 20, it means something else. We need to know what the situation is so we can prevent it."

Acting Mayor Doug Thompson said city staff are monitoring the situation.

"It's unprecedented, the amount of rain that we've had. I feel that city staff are a bit puzzled why this has happened. Obviously there is a problem out there," he said. "We're going to be reviewing that to see what can be done to prevent it in the future."

Chevalier said Glen Cairn, Stittsville and Castle Frank, were the most affected areas. Many houses on Landswood Way reported a couple inches of flooding, but few were as badly flooded as the Flanagans'.

Jeff said he still doesn't understand why his house got so much water while his neighbors had a couple of inches or none at all.

"We got the brunt of it," he said. "The hardest thing is the kids are losing all their stuff. They don't understand that it's eventually going to get replaced,"

On Black Bear Way, Jason Puncher said a house from every homebuilder in the area had some flooding.

"It was just carpet damage, but it leaked into the drywall," he said. "We're going to have to rip out two feet of wall for half the basement."

Cops seek assault suspect

TRANSITWAY Police are investigating after a teenager said she was grabbed near a Westboro Transitway station late Saturday night.

Police said that at 11 p.m. on Saturday, a 17-year-old female was leaving the OC Transpo Transitway station at Scott Street and Athlone Avenue when an unknown male grabbed her.

Info

- Anyone with information about this incident should call police at 613-236-1222 ext. 5944.

Police said the female was knocked to the ground and inappropriately touched. The man stopped when the teen fought back.

The suspect left walking southbound across the Transitway. The female fled toward Van Lang Private, where she screamed for assistance and police were called.

Police are seeking a white male, 20-25 years old, weighing 165-175 pounds, with a very fair complexion and no apparent facial hair. He has blue eyes and short, naturally blond hair. He was wearing a light royal blue T-shirt with possibly an embroidered yellow or white logo on the front and baggy pants, possibly jeans.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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Guinea pigs, rabbits, chinchillas, birds await adoption
Summer can be a good time to introduce a new pet to your home, says the Ottawa Humane Society. The OHS has guinea pigs, rabbits, chinchillas and birds awaiting adoption. For more information, visit www.ottawahumane.ca. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Open Dialogue for Arab communities

The Lebanese and Arab Social Services Agency of Ottawa, Ottawa Police and the Ottawa Police Services Board are joining forces to build partnerships with the Arab communities by establishing open lines of communication. Working Together — An Open Dialogue is being held at the St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral tomorrow from 7 to 9 p.m. METRO OTTAWA

Fest milestone for city woman

Musician's 'made it' by coming back, playing Chamberfest

MJ DESCHAMPS
for Metro Ottawa

In the summer of 1995, a 15-year old trombonist sat quietly in the audience at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, taking in her first-ever live concert experience.

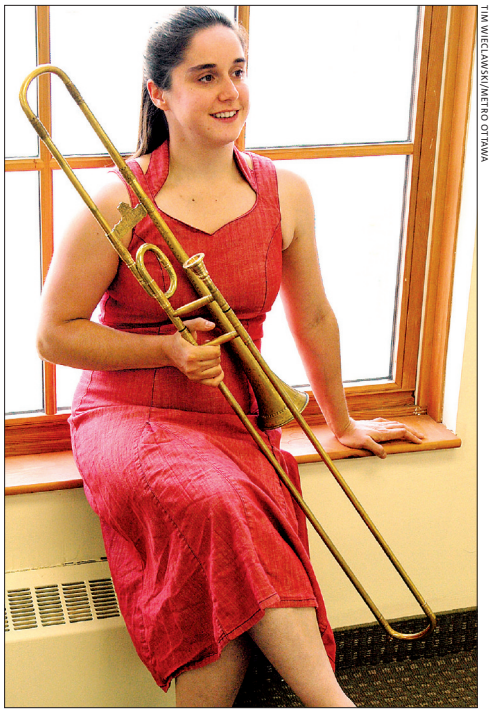
As a volunteer at the festival, Catherine Motuz got to meet many of the festival's stars — professional musicians like Steven Sitarski, Julie Nesrallah, Andrew Dawes, who inspired her to start thinking seriously about playing her instrument beyond high school music class.

Fourteen years later, Motuz is gearing up to take the stage at the very festival that made her want to pursue music as a career in the first place.

"That first festival I volunteered at showed me that it wasn't just child prodigies that could become professional musicians," she said.

The festival, which kicked off this weekend and runs through Aug. 8, features world premières, eighteen celebrated pianists and more than a dozen string quartets, showcased in over 90 concerts and events at about half a dozen venues.

"Honestly, I probably wouldn't have become a musician if it hadn't been for that early experience volunteering with Chamberfest," said Motuz.



TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Fourteen years after her first Chamberfest experience, Catherine Motuz returns to the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival — as a performer.

In the fall of 1998, Motuz enrolled for a double major in trombone performance and composition.

Every summer though, Motuz would come back to Ottawa to volunteer at Chamberfest, and eventually began working in a paid position at the Ottawa Chamber Music Society office.

> **"That first festival I volunteered at showed me that it wasn't just child prodigies that could become professional musicians."**
> Trombonist Catherine Motuz

"It means a lot to me to be a part of the festival as an artist this time — it's very surreal," she said.

Since graduating with a master's degree in Early Music at McGill in 2004, Motuz has moved to Switzerland, and performed all over Europe, as well as Japan, Russia and Israel in her career as a professional baroque trombonist.

However, a humble Motuz said that nothing compares to being back in Ottawa to play at the festival that changed everything for her.

"I remember thinking when I first went off to university that if I were someday able to come back to Ottawa to actually play Chamberfest, then I would know that I had really 'made it.'"

Crowds enjoy Turkish festival despite rain

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Sporadic downpours had little effect on this weekend's Ottawa Turkish Festival.

Outdoor festivals tend to be pretty weather dependent, said Kerim Khan, director of the Canadian Turkish Heritage Foundation, and while 15,000 people were expected over the festival's three-day run at Confederation Park, they got at least that many in spite of the rain.

Attendees who braved the weather were treated to the food, the arts and performances that Turkey is famous for.

The 2006 Census reported 45,000 Turkish-Canadians in Canada, said Hasan Yilmaz, editor-in-chief of CanadaTurk newspaper. Yet Turkish-Canadian events are growing across Canada, taking place in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Kitchener, Edmonton and Hamilton, he said.

The Turkish culture is known for its hospitality to visitors, and the festival was trying to convey that, Khan said.

While the food in general was popular over the weekend, Khan said the biggest lineups were at the Turkish coffee tent and for freshly made gozleme.

TRACEY TONG/METRO

Ebru artist Seyda Nur Celebi demonstrates the traditional Turkish art of water marbling.

While Turkish coffee is famous worldwide, people waited more than an hour for gozleme, a Turkish pastry made with a special dough and stuffed with cheese, spinach and potato.

The festival brought out members of the Turkish-Canadian community as volunteers, like Zehranur Sasal, 15, who has volunteered at the festival for three years because she "enjoys sharing the culture."

Volunteer Seyda Nur Celebi demonstrated the art of water marbling, a 15th century art she learned in her native Turkey. There was so much interest that she plans on giving classes in Ottawa next year.

News in brief

WEATHER After a wet weekend, Ottawans get a bit of a break from the rain for a few days, said Environment Canada severe weather meteorologist Bryan Tugwood. The cold and rain will move to the northwest early this week, leaving Ottawa's weather "more stable" today. The rain returns Wednesday and Thursday.

ROBBERY Police are investigating after a Wine Rack store at Westgate Plaza was robbed yesterday. A man entered the store and demanded cash from the register, police said. The suspect made off with $290 and a bottle of wine. There were no injuries. METRO OTTAWA

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Valour Bridge gets marker signs

Nearly 130,000 cars pass underneath the Valour Bridge each day, but Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Secretary Duane Daly believes few of those drivers know what it's called.

The bridge spans Highway 417 to connect Castlefrank Road to Kanata Avenue. It was named Valour Bridge in 2007 and plaques were put on the actual bridge two years ago for pedestrians, but there was nothing to distinguish it for drivers.

"It's been a great history lesson for kids at the nearby school to be able to go and read those plaques as they cross the bridge, but so many people who are driving by don't know what the bridge is," said Daly.

Yesterday, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation fixed that problem by unveiling new signs identifying the bridge to drivers approaching it on Highway 417.

Ottawa West Nepean MPP Jim Watson pointed out these signs are the latest collaboration between the Legion and MTO. In 1998, Highway 416 was named Veteran's Memorial Highway and in 2007, the section of Highway 417 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed The Highway of Heroes.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Jim Watson, left, and Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President Wilf Edmond stand in front of the new signs for Valour Bridge.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Despite recent good news, market volatility is still a real threat for investors at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Aboard the International Space Station, Julie Payette talks about preparing to return to Earth at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Jul. 24
Super 7: 01, 05, 18, 27, 29, 30 & 34 Bonus 39
Saturday, Jul. 25
Lotto 6/49: 10, 19, 29, 32, 38 & 44 Bonus 03
Sunday, Jul. 26
Ontario Pick 3: 6 0 2; **Ontario Pick 4:** 9 4 1 6
Encore: 6652611;
Daily Keno: 8, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 31, 33, 41, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 54, 56, 57, 60, 63.
These results are not official.

Feds promise to assert Arctic soveriegnty
The federal government has promised to assert Canada's sovereignty over its resource-rich Arctic lands and waters while it addresses the need for jobs, housing and a clean environment in the North, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Google scans northern cities

Search engine Google dispatched some unusual-looking cars, with a large amount of camera gear on top, to roam — and photograph — the streets of Yellowknife and Whitehorse last week, CBC News Online reports. The images are linked to the company's Google Maps and Google Earth applications. The Canadian version of Street View is "coming soon," according to the service's website.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halifax **Metro shows some pride**

RYAN TALIN/METRO CANADA

Metro Halifax celebrated the Halifax Pride parade in that city on Saturday, by having Metro paraders participate, and hosting a Metro chilling tent.

Recession's projected end a boon for Tories

Bank's forecast suggests 'plan is working': Flaherty

If Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his fellow Conservatives look a little relieved this week, they can thank Mark Carney for lifting their spirits — and perhaps their political fortunes.

With his prediction that the recession is nearly over, the Bank of Canada governor served up some welcome good news just in time for this week's Conservative caucus retreat.

His forecast is sure to prompt some back-patting as Harper and his MPs take credit for the emerging turnaround. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty began the boasting last week when he declared that the economy is "stabilized" and that growth was around the corner.

"It's easy to throw down the gauntlet when the economy is doing well."
Pollster Nik Nanos

"All of these are good indicators that the plan is working and we're seeing the beginning of economic recovery," Flaherty said, adding that he expects Canada to emerge from the recession stronger than the United States.

Still, the mood of Wednesday's Conservative retreat is unlikely to match the bullish atmosphere of last year's caucus session, when Harper taunted Stéphane Dion, then the Liberal leader, to face him in the polls.

"I think we're probably going to see a caucus meeting that is much more grounded in the sense that the downturn in the economy has really cast a pall over everything ... It represents a significant political risk," pollster Nik Nanos said. "It's easy to throw down the gauntlet when the economy is doing well." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LABOUR Passenger trains were to start up again late yesterday after a two-day strike that threatened to disrupt holiday traffic. Via Rail and the union representing the striking locomotive engineers said yesterday they had agreed to start binding arbitration to get a deal. "We reached the conclusion that there was no possible agreement in the short term," Daniel Shewchuk, president of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, said in a statement. REUTERS

REPRESENTATION Last week, Lisa Merrithew started a small revolution in New Brunswick for an old cause — more women in politics. Merrithew, who served as deputy chief of staff to former premier Bernard Lord, is no stranger to politics and the apparently perpetual failure to improve women's representation in Canada. Merrithew looked at the dismal numbers in the New Brunswick legislature: only seven MLAs among 55. That's just 12 per cent — roughly half the percentage ratios at Queen's Park or in the House of Commons.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New AFN chief Atleo faces hard challenges

FocusOn FirstNations

NATIVE AFFAIRS Staggering poverty, unemployment and unresolved treaties are among the enormous challenges facing Shawn Atleo, the new national chief of the Assembly of the First Nations.

Last week, Statistics Canada released a report showing that the disproportionate number of adult aboriginals in jail is related in part to poverty and lack of education. They made up 22 per cent of the prison population in 2007-08, even though they accounted for just three per cent of the national population.

Associated with poverty levels, overcrowding and health concerns is a suicide level among aboriginal Canadians that is at least five times the national average.

Authorities on native issues say Atleo, a 42-year-old British Columbia businessman and native activist, has to focus on outstanding treaties and education to find solutions to the myriad of problems dogging native communities across the country.

"If there had been a recognition (of the treaties) ... from the beginning, we wouldn't be in the position we are in in terms of grinding poverty," said Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, an assistant professor in the aboriginal studies department at the University of Toronto.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Election

- Chiefs of Canada's more than 600 status Indian bands selected Atleo from five candidates to succeed Phil Fontaine as national chief of the Assembly of First Nations on Thursday in Calgary after eight rounds of voting. Fontaine did not seek re-election.

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German minister under fire for taking limo to Spain

Germany's health minister came under pressure yesterday to explain why she took her official limousine, complete with chauffeur, to Spain, where the vehicle was stolen. Opposition politicians demanded Ulla Schmidt provide more details about the incident. REUTERS

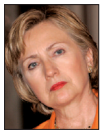
World

Sarkozy hospitalized after jog

French President Nicolas Sarkozy was rushed to hospital yesterday after falling ill while jogging and stayed overnight to undergo cardiological tests, officials said. The 54-year-old did not lose consciousness but had to lie down before being helicoptered to the Val-de-Grace military hospital in Paris. "When he was jogging in the park of the Chateau of Versailles, the president was taken ill," his office said in a statement. REUTERS

Clinton hopes for female president

U.S. Failed presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton said yesterday she hoped there would a female U.S. president in her lifetime but ruled out the chance she would run again.



Clinton

Now secretary of state in the Cabinet of one-time rival President Barack Obama, Clinton said it was a "daunting" challenge for a woman to run for president.

"It will take the right woman who can make the case and win the votes and get elected. I am certainly hoping it will happen in my lifetime," she told NBC's Meet the Press.

When pressed whether she would run again, she said, "I have absolutely no belief, in my mind, that that will happen." REUTERS

U.S. tries to spur peace

Despite rift, Netanyahu says U.S.-Israeli relations still strong

The United States launched a fresh drive yesterday to restart Middle East peace talks, sending senior officials to the region to deal with issues ranging from Jewish settlements to Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The visits by Middle East envoy George Mitchell, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and National Security Adviser Jim Jones were a strong signal from U.S. President Barack Obama of his intention to keep Israeli-Arab peacemaking high on his agenda.

Obama's demand, in accordance with a 2003 U.S.-backed peace "road map," to freeze Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem has met stiff resistance from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Playing down the most serious rift in U.S.-Israeli ties in a decade, Netanyahu told his cabinet: "It is only natural, that within a fabric of friendly relations between allies, there isn't full agreement on all points."

He described Israel's relationship with Washington as "important and steadfast," a departure from tough comments he made only a week ago when he said he would not accept orders from the United States on Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said talks with Israel, suspended for more than six months, cannot resume until all Israeli settlement activity ceases.

"We are trying to reach understandings on various issues so that we can, together, advance our common goals: peace, security and prosperity for all of the Middle East," Netanyahu said.

Flying to Israel from talks in Damascus with President Bashar al-Assad on the possibility of restarting Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Mitchell discussed a settlement deal and prospects for regional peace with Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak in Tel Aviv.

Mitchell told reporters he has been urging Arab leaders "to take steps towards normalization." REUTERS

Promoting peace

- U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell was to see Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas today and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tomorrow.

Pro-Zelaya border protests weakened

HONDURAS Disheartened supporters of deposed Honduran President Manuel Zelaya trickled home from the Nicaraguan border yesterday, weakening protests backing his bid to return to power after a coup last month. Honduran troops manning checkpoints have prevented several thousand demonstrators from staging a show of support at the border for the leftist leader, now exiled in Nicaragua.

Six miles from the border, 100 weary protesters milled around the coffee town of El Paraiso, a far cry from the massive outpouring of public backing Zelaya had called for.

The United States, Latin American governments and the United Nations want Zelaya returned to power, but Secretary of State Hillary Clinton criticized him as being "reckless" when he took a few steps onto Honduran soil on Friday in a symbolic gesture in front of international media.

OSWALDO RIVAS/REUTERS

Ousted Honduras President Manuel Zelaya talks to supporters Saturday.

Zelaya, who is in a Nicaraguan town near the border, hit back at the U.S. secretary of state for the second time in two days. Clinton should "stop avoiding the issue" that the Honduran government is a dictatorship, he told journalists.

"Secretary Clinton should confront the dictatorship with force," he said. REUTERS

News in brief

TALIBAN Pakistani police have detained pro-Taliban cleric Sufi Mohammad, accusing him of helping militants in the country's northwest and sabotaging the government's fight against them, an official said yesterday. **AFGHANISTAN** One of Afghan President Hamid Karzai's vice presidential running mates in next month's elections escaped unhurt from an ambush by Taliban insurgents yesterday, officials said. Mohammad Qasim Fahim, the former head of an alliance that toppled the Taliban in 2001, was ambushed on a road in Kunduz province where he was campaigning on Karzai's behalf for the Aug. 20 poll, said senior campaign official Zalmai Mujadidi.

CUBA More belt-tightening may lie head for Cuba as President Raul Castro said yesterday the government will look at making its second "adjustment to expenditures" this year due to the effects of the global financial crisis. He said Cuba needs to press ahead with getting more land into the hands of private farmers. REUTERS

Nepal **A Gurkha welcome**

SHRUTI SHRESTHA/REUTERS

Actress and campaigner Joanna Lumley is welcomed by British Gurkhas and their families yesterday in Kathmandu, Nepal. The British TV star has long advocated for U.K. citizenship rights for Gurkhas, native to the Himalayas, but who have served in the British military since 1815.

Ahmadinejad fires two ministers

POLITICS Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed yesterday the intelligence and culture ministers, a news agency reported.

The semi-official Mehr news agency quoted an unnamed source as saying the two ministers had a dispute with the hardline president over the appointment of Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie as first vice-president for Ahmadinejad's second four-year term.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who backs Ahmadinejad's disputed election win last month, ordered the president last week to dismiss Mashaie who has said Iran was friends with everyone, even the people of arch-foe Israel.

Iran does not recognize Israel and Ahmadinejad has often predicted its imminent demise. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

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Comment

Head over heels for hope

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

On a recent morning I hit on a great truth about love. Romantic relationships call into play the two most powerful and overwhelming forces known to human kind: Hope and hormones.

I realized this during a phone conversation with my friend Rob. It went something like this.

Rob: The most amazing thing has happened. Incredible. Stupendous. You won't believe it.

Me: So, those new strawberry-esque doughnuts at Tim Hortons. The best thing ever? Or a wicked plot by Weight Watchers?

Rob: What about my news?

Me: You've met a woman. She's perfect. You're madly in love. You never knew you could feel this way.

Rob: Well … yeah. Except for the part about … well … yeah.

Me: Honey, I worry about your heart.

Rob: You're the one eating doughnuts.

Me: Falling in love makes you irrational.

Rob: Irrational? Not ever. Totally not. Me, irrational? What? Huh?

Me: What about that woman with "Elvis Lives" tattooed on her forehead?

Rob: She was very … optimistic.

Me: And the one who thought pigeons speak to her?

Rob: She'll never feel alone. But this one is different. We've had

SunnySide

three whole dates and I haven't once felt like suggesting she'd benefit from lengthy psychotherapy.

Me: What about how you behave? The short list of things you've done for love includes: Bought a ferret, grown your hair, cut your hair, studied "clowning," sworn you love Barry Manilow, sworn you hate Barry Manilow, sworn you love camping — which, if you remember, led to you actually having to go camping, grown your hair again, and worn spandex.

Rob: I liked the spandex. Once I got that chafing under control. Anyway, what about listening to my heart?

Me: I'm afraid you can't hear it over your hormones. Sweetie, why do you want to try this again?

Rob: Because maybe this will be the woman that'll make inane love songs seem like deep, meaningful insight. Maybe she'll be the person who will know me; the good, the bad, the bordering on repellent and still love me like springtime. And maybe I'll do the same for her. What's it worth risking for that?

Me: Truthfully? … Everything you've got. Just look after yourself, OK?

Rob: What's the worst that can happen?

Me: Remember Raw Food Girl?

Rob: I have to run. We've signed up to take Norwegian country dancing.

Me: Good for you, sweetie. I'm right behind you.

The things we do for love.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

GRAEME MACKAY

Letters

First Nations issues are important to all Canadians

Metro should be commended for its respectful and thought-provoking coverage of First Nations issues.

Metro's coverage provided important information on an often overlooked subject in many media outlets. First Nations issues are important to our communities and our nation.

GLENN KIRKWOOD, LADNER, B.C.

Views

Announcing stops is a simple courtesy

InTransit

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

Things have come to a rare pass when you have to sic the regulators on OC Transpo just to be told where to get off.

And yet, this is the story of Terrance Green. The Ottawa lawyer, who is blind, applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency to order drivers to call out major and requested stops. This after incidents of missing his stop and ending up in parts of town neither he nor his guide dog knew.

The agency sided with Green and by March 31, all drivers were supposed to be announcing the stops. That deadline has been missed and fines against the city are likely the next step. So the public, because it isn't receiving the service it should be, will end up paying the penalty.

Strangely enough, calling out stops has been OC Transpo's policy for some 20 years — drivers just aren't doing it one-fifth of the time, according to the company's own figures.

Eighty per cent compliance with the rules is, well, OK, but just how hard is it to call out stops? Apparently, hard enough that OC Transpo is in the process of installing an automated voice system at the cost of $7 million.

In the meantime, some worry about the safety implications of drivers calling out stops at the same time as they deal with heavy traffic. OK, then, when it's hairy, how about naming stops when actually stopped at them? Yes, it's yet another distraction for our multi-tasking drivers, but these are, after all, the rules.

Announcing stops is a simple courtesy that helps not only the visually impaired or any tourists brave enough to take on the intricacies of our transit routes, but anyone taking a bus into an unfamiliar part of town.

A very intelligent, capable woman I know recently lost the use of her car and admitted she didn't know how to use the bus system in Ottawa. What seems simple enough to the regular rider can have a daunting learning curve for the newbie.

Even the everyday rider, plugged into an MP3 player or a book or a daydream, can miss a stop. In winter, on foggy-windowed rainy days and at night, it isn't even easy for those with 20/20 vision to see exactly where they are.

The bus driver's primary job is to get you from here to there on time and safely, and Transpo's record is pretty impressive in this regard. But as front-line public employees, they are also representatives of our city. That's worth a couple of stop announcements.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa; ottawaletters@metronews.ca.

Worth mentioning

Destruction taking its toll on Earth: Astronaut

A Canadian astronaut aboard the International Space Station said yesterday it looks like Earth's ice caps have melted a bit since he was last in orbit 12 years ago.

Bob Thirsk, who is two months into a planned six-month stay aboard the station, said he is mostly in awe when he looks out the window, particularly at the sliver of atmosphere wrapped around the planet.

"It's a very thin veil of atmosphere around the Earth that keeps us alive," Thirsk said during an in-flight news conference. "Most of the time when I look out the window I'm in awe. But there are some effects of the human destruction of the Earth as well.

"This is probably just a perception, but I just have the feeling that the glaciers are melting, the snow capping the mountains is less than it was 12 years ago when I saw it last time," Thirsk said. "That saddens me a little bit." REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

19% SAID YES	Do you think tax harmonization helps the economy? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	81% SAID NO

Tell us your views by email to ottawaletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metroottawa

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Microsoft moves to settle antitrust dispute with EU

Microsoft sought on Friday to end a long-running dispute with EU antitrust regulators as it offered to let users choose their own browser and to provide more interoperability information to third parties. The EU, which monitors competition, has to date slapped fines totalling 1.68 billion euros on the U.S. software giant. REUTERS

Business

Toyota to sell stake in plant

Toyota Motor Corp. announced Friday that it will begin selling off its stake in a southern California manufacturing plant that it had jointly operated with General Motors. GM announced last month that it was withdrawing from the 50-50 joint venture as part of a liquidation deal to ensure it would emerge from bankruptcy protection. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

What do marketing and myths have in common?

Made to **Stick**

Author: Chip and Dan Heath
Publisher: Random House
Price: $28.00

Have you ever heard an urban legend and noticed that just about everyone you know is also familiar with the story? According to authors (and brothers) Dan and Chip Heath, there is a very particular mix of factors that lead to the success and longevity of these tales. In their book, Made to Stick, the Heath brothers walk the reader through each principle of 'sticking' using the acronym SUCCESS. Business examples include the simple South West Airlines approach to being 'the low fare airline.' This book was a hit at book club — especially when we gave the task of creating a marketing campaign to two teams for a challenge. Fun reading. CRAIG LUND /FOR METRO CANADA

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

Canadian life insurers safe bets: Analysts

RESULTS Canada's big four life insurers now look to be better bets than either their U.S. rivals or the big Canadian banks as a surging stock market brings profits bouncing higher after three awful quarters.

Analysts say credit concerns and reserve questions have set the stage for a noisy quarter when the Big Four report quarterly results next week. But almost all say the insurers have ground to make up, and they make investment sense.

Manulife, Great-West Life, Sun Life and Industrial Alliance Insurance are all expected to report second-quarter profits. REUTERS

Business in brief

AUTO The U.S. government launched a $1 billion US cash incentive program on Friday to stimulate auto sales by getting consumers to part with gas-guzzlers and buy more fuel efficient vehicles. The program, which offers up to $4,500 US, will be overseen by the Transportation Department. Dealers and manufacturers are offering additional incentives, including matching funds in some cases, to help boost sales.

STOCKS Wall Street may take a breather this week after an earnings-driven rally lifted the major U.S. indexes to their highest levels in months. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average passed the 9,000 mark last week for the first time since January. And the S&P 500 Index ended Friday at 979.26 — up 44.7 per cent from the 12-year closing low hit on March 9. REUTERS

Ericsson wins Nortel assets

Sweden's Ericsson has won an auction for the wireless assets of bankrupt Nortel Networks Corp, paying $1.13 billion US for the crown jewels of the one-time Canadian telecom star.

The two companies said Saturday Ericsson had won the bidding for Nortel's key CDMA and next-generation LTE wireless technologies, which Nortel put on the block after it filed for creditor protection in January.

The assets include Nortel's businesses in the CDMA wireless technology used in North America and in the emerging LTE high-speed wireless technology that many of the world's biggest operators plan to use to upgrade their telecommunications networks, as well as some patents.

"This is both a sad story for Nortel and a happy story for Ericsson," Jeff Kagan, an independent industry analyst, said in a note. "Rather than competing with Nortel, Ericsson has won."

He said the deal would enable the Swedish telecom gear maker to expand its North American footprint as the industry evolves toward so-called 4G LTE technology.

When fully developed, the technology is expected to provide broadband-like access for cellphone users in terms of speed and content richness, Kagan said.

Ericsson's offer virtually assures Nortel will be broken up rather than emerge from bankruptcy protection as a slimmed-down single unit. REUTERS

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Nortel's Carling Campus in Ottawa. Swedish firm Ericsson successfully won the bankrupt company's wireless assets Friday.

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Mexico wins Gold Cup

Mexico won its fifth Gold Cup yesterday by dominating the Americans 5-0 in the final. A Giants Stadium crowd of 79,156, overwhelmingly comprised of Mexican fans, watched the visitors score all their goals in the second half. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Massa in life-threatening state

Ferrari F1 driver Felipe Massa remained in "life-threatening" but stable condition yesterday following surgery on multiple skull fractures. Massa was injured during Saturday qualifying when the rear spring from another car bounced into his helmet as the 28-year-old reached speeds of about 120 m.p.h. The impact concussed Massa, who then plowed into the protective tire barrier. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Contador claims Tour

Spaniard wins second title, Armstrong finishes third in comeback

Alberto Contador emerged as the new cycling boss yesterday when the Spaniard wrapped up his second Tour de France title on seven-times champion Lance Armstrong's return to the race.

The 26-year-old Contador stayed safe in the main bunch as the last stage, over 164 km from Montereau Fault-Yonne, went to Briton Mark Cavendish.

"I am really happy. It was an especially difficult Tour for me, but that's why I am enjoying the victory all the more," Contador said on the podium.

Over three weeks, Contador proved the strongest rider in the mountains and in the time trials, beating Luxembourg's Andy Schleck by four minutes 11 seconds. Armstrong, back from 3½ years in retirement, finished third overall 5:24 off the pace.

Schleck, who also took the white jersey for the best under-25 rider, said: "He (Contador) was the strongest rider. He is the boss of the peloton."

The victory kept the Spanish flag flying high on the Champs-Elysees following triumphs for Oscar Pereiro in 2006, Contador in 2007 and Carlos Sastre last year.

Contador, who missed last year's Tour after Astana were not invited because of their past doping record, took the overall leader's yellow jersey with a strong attack in the first Alpine stage in Verbier, Switzerland. REUTERS

BERNARD PAPON/REUTERS

Astana rider Alberto Contador of Spain, centre, celebrates his overall victory on the podium next to second-place Saxo Bank rider Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, left, and third-place Astana rider Lance Armstrong after the final stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

Montreal back in?

It's Called Football

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

The Montreal Impact have been dealt back in. Or, at least, they're back at the table, giving indications they're willing to bet the minimum.

For those who had forgotten the expansion standoff between Impact owner Joey Saputo and MLS commissioner Don Garber earlier this year, it went something like this:

Saputo: We don't feel we should pay $40 million for an expansion fee.

Garber: Well, $40 million is the bet.

Saputo: Well, we're going to bet $31 million.

Garber: Then you, sir, are out of the game.

Saputo: That doesn't seem fair. Did I mention I am Joey Saputo — owner of the Montreal Impact? We attracted 55,000 to a soccer game in February. We've already spent $15 million on our stadium. And my family makes really good cheese.

Garber: All very nice, but the minimum bet is $40 million.

Saputo: I'm calling your bluff.

And with that, Garber had Saputo tossed out of the casino by security toughs.

Meanwhile, the two others at the table, Vancouver's Bob Lenarduzzi and Portland's Merritt Paulson, sat tight, played a few more hands and ended up paying $35 million for their trouble.

"Montreal should play the hand it's dealt and thank the league for it."

But now Saputo is back, money in hand, saying he is willing to pay the $35-million expansion fee.

Garber's convinced. So much so that the board of governors discussed the Impact as they met this weekend ahead of Wednesday's all-star game in Utah. It seems MLS is more than willing to put the past behind them.

But will Saputo?

The league invited Saputo to the all-star game. An offer Saputo politely (and insanely) refused because the Impact are playing an international friendly the night before.

Joey, the boss just invited you to dinner and you told him, 'No thanks, I'm washing my hair.'

You can do both — I checked online for you. There are 16 Air Canada flights that will get you to Salt Lake City on time. Yes, it'll cost $1,300, but surely that's worth it if it keeps you from pissing off the dealer again.

An announcement on whether the league will offer expansion in 2012 is expected today. However those cards flop, Montreal should play the hand it's dealt and thank the league for it because, in the end, the MLS house always wins.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

Canadian Open outlasts weekend

GOLF Jason Dufner led the Canadian Open leaderboard at the end of play yesterday, but could not collect his maiden PGA Tour win as the weather-battered tournament was forced into a Monday finish.

After three days of torrential rain and thunderstorms, officials had hoped they might dodge the miserable weather long enough to pack in 36 holes and crown the tournament's 100th champion.

But shortly after third-round play began, ferocious storms again rumbled across Glen Abbey forcing another lengthy delay before play was finally suspended.

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., recorded a hole-in-one on the par-3 fourth and sits five strokes back of Dufner. REUTERS

Sports in brief

HALLADAY Toronto Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi reportedly told Foxsports.com last night that because his asking price hasn't yet been met, he thinks the chances of all-star pitcher Roy Halladay being moved before the deadline are "very slim."

BLUE JAYS Scott Rolen's three-run homer in the fourth proved to be all the Blue Jays would need, as Toronto salvaged the last game in its three-game series against Tampa Bay with a 5-1 victory yesterday.

GOLF Loren Roberts won the Senior British Open for the second time yesterday after overcoming Mark McNulty and Fred Funk in a playoff at Sunningdale. Tom Watson finished five strokes back.

EDMONTON INDY Australian racer Will Power led almost the entire way yesterday to win the Rexall Edmonton Indy. Toronto's Paul Tracy was the top Canadian, finishing sixth in the 23-car field.

BASEBALL The Seattle Mariners have placed Ottawa native Erik Bedard on the 15-day disabled list with left-shoulder inflammation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Casual Fridays good for the environment
Introducing casual Fridays to an office work week helps save energy. Short-sleeved, open-necked shirts mean the office thermostat can be set higher. Every degree will cut up to 20 per cent of air conditioning costs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

The truly greener bricks

In Indonesia, EcoFaeBrick makes environmentally friendly bricks out of leftover cow dung, fired in kilns using biofuels to reduce carbon emissions, according to Green Trends. And no, they don't smell — they look exactly like clay bricks and cost about the same as regular bricks but are said to be 20 per cent stronger and lighter. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

G8 emissions plan is meaningless

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

metronews.ca/earthtones

Sometimes we can all be pretty gullible. Ever make a major purchase because it was "30 per cent off" or choose a bag of chips because it had "50 per cent more!"? More than what? More than a bag with 50 per cent fewer chips? The ads make us feel like savvy shoppers, but without a frame of reference, it's pretty meaningless.

One lesson learned from the recent G8 summit in Italy is that the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians, and Mexicans are better shoppers than we are. While G8 countries were hailing the agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 per cent by 2050 (80 per cent for developed economies), and to limit global average temperature increases to two degrees over pre-industrial temperatures, these developing economies were asking what it all means.

Like the bag of chips, the agreement lacks meaning as it lacks any frame of reference. A 50 per cent reduction from what year? And what is the baseline for pre-industrial temperature? If we choose 1830s versus 1850s (last minimum of the "Little Ice Age") it makes a major difference. The agreement reached in Italy is not a plan, and without frames of reference it does not set any real goals.

These frames of reference are to be worked out in advance of the December UNFCC Conference in Copenhagen, but it is disappointing that G8 leaders left Italy without establishing them. While we're at it and talking about frames of reference, somebody better verify with the Americans we mean Celsius.

Of course, it's not just that the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians, and Mexicans are more cautious shoppers. Even with benchmarks, it will be difficult to get these countries to buy in to any carbon emission reduction plan. Until recently, that has been a justification for Canada to walk away from its Kyoto Protocol obligations, and for the U.S. to not even ratify Kyoto. But these decisions showed a lack of understanding of our own economy, and have really put the North American market at a disadvantage. Like other G8 countries, the Canadian and American economies are built on innovation. We have let European countries take the risks, hence the lead in green technologies. Adopting stringent carbon reduction targets now will have us playing catch-up for years, but further delays will only broaden the gap.

Further, a more expansive view of our commitment to reduce carbon emissions that includes not only use of products in Canada, but carbon emissions during their manufacture and transportation, will give developing economies incentive to reduce emissions to remain competitive. So far, however, product life cycle goals for carbon emissions remain outside the scope of the major international agreements and conventions. Hopefully, someday they find their place.

Beyond the technology gap

- The economies of China, India, Brazil and Mexico are not built on innovation but rather on taking innovative products and making them less expensively. If we are innovative in designing products that are more efficient, and are innovative in developing new, greener manufacturing technologies, who do you think will adopt those technologies and make those products?

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

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Old phones can have a new life
Instead of throwing old broken phones in the garbage, take them to a collection centre where they will be either refurbished or recycled. There are many around — in high schools, community centres, even pizza outlets. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Electric bikes en vogue

Japanese manufacturers aim to find a green alternative

Riding the vogue for eco-conscious products, companies ranging from battery to tire to motorcycle makers in Japan are looking to cultivate a market that beats even hybrid cars in green credentials: Electric bicycles.

Japan's motor-assisted bicycles use a small electric motor and battery pack mounted inconspicuously on the bicycle to propel the rider, constantly adjusting the motor's force to the speed and resistance of the pedalling.

That makes cycling up a hill or while carrying a heavy load a cinch, winning over a growing number of elderly and housewives in Japan. Sales of electric bicycles more than doubled from 2000 to 315,000 last year, as they became more affordable and practical.

"A lot of our customers say their range of activity on a bicycle has expanded. They're going places where they would normally take their car or a taxi."
Masanori Kobayashi, Yamaha senior official

"Once you've ridden one of our motor-assisted bicycles, you'll never go back!" a spokeswoman at Yamaha Motor beamed, urging reporters to try out a few of Yamaha's 17 electric bicycle models at a test-ride event on Friday.

The motor switches off automatically once the speed reaches the 24 km/h legal limit for assisted riding, classifying the vehicles as bicycles, unlike the popular electric bicycles sold in China, which would require a licence in Japan.

Yamaha Motor, Japan's No. 2 motorcycle brand and top maker of electric bicycles, expects more of a tailwind for the market.

Thanks to advances in rechargeable batteries, Yamaha's standard electric bikes have a range of 39 kilometres, or 67 km using an optional mode that activates the motor only when desired. That's about double the range of its first model introduced in 1993.

"A lot of our customers say their range of activity on a bicycle has expanded," said Masanori Kobayashi, a senior official at Yamaha. "They're going places where they would normally take their car or a taxi."

Charging time has shrunk to two hours from 10, with one charge costing around 10 cents. One catch though is that batteries need to be replaced roughly once every two years, and they cost at least $250 each.

REUTERS

TORU HANAI/REUTERS
A model rides a Yamaha Motor's new motor-assisted bicycle at its test-ride event in Tokyo on Friday.

Canadians should get to know HE

LAUNDRY Recently, a new designation has been showing up on laundry detergent bottles: HE. A national survey conducted by Angus Reid Strategies on behalf of Purex Natural Elements laundry detergent found that 62 per cent of Canadians have never heard of HE and don't understand what this designation means.

HE stands for high-efficiency and refers to the new front-load, high-efficiency washing machines that are becoming more popular with consumers.

These machines not only use less energy than traditional machines, they use less water, and therefore, require a laundry detergent that is low-sudsing. The presence of too many suds can "confuse" the washing cycles and restrict the proper rinsing of the clothes, and may lead to mechanical difficulties with the machine. NEWS CANADA

Empty ink cartridges can help local schools

Don't know how to get rid of those empty ink and toner cartridges when they run out of ink? Why not consider dropping them off at your local Staples Canada store to help raise funds for schools in your community.

Staples Canada donates funds raised from all eligible cartridges they collect back to local elementary and secondary schools enrolled in the program. Schools must be registered in order to benefit from the program; registration starts Sept. 1 and ends Dec. 31.

"We have been so impressed by the number of customers who have taken the time to drop off their cartridges for such a worthwhile cause and the number of teachers and school administrators who have taken the time to register," says Pete Gibel, vice-president of Staples Canada.

Schools benefit from funds raised through a program that recycles used ink and toner cartridges.

The Recycle for Education program started in 2004 and this past school year alone Staples stores across Canada raised $400,000 by collecting used cartridges for recycling.

Staples has posted information about its Recycle for Education program on its website recyclefored.ca.

NEWS CANADA

Recycling can be a great way to help charities in need

TREASURES We all know recycling is good for the environment, but have you ever thought about how recycling could help those who are less fortunate?

With tougher economic times and job losses, a growing trend this year is finding a way to turn your trash into someone else's treasure. At a time when so many charities need your help, here are a few ways you can start recycling for an important cause:

Old electronics: That dated computer or cellphone might be old to you, but chances are it would be new to someone else. Consider donating them to organizations that help provide job training for the unemployed.

Not just old clothes: Why stop at donating old clothes to a local charity? Kitchen items that aren't being used can find a new home at the local soup kitchen; unused toiletries would be appreciated at a women's shelter; and children's toys are a welcome addition to any church.

Nickels in blue bin: You wouldn't put a bin full of coins out for the garbage truck so why give away those cans? Aluminum cans can be traded in for money that you can use to support the charity of your choice. Kids love collecting cans around the neighborhood and at school if it is for a cause they can get excited about. NEWS CANADA

Donation choices

- The website (ccfcanada.ca) of Christian Children's Fund of Canada, an international children's organization, offers a host of donation choices that kids here can send to poor children overseas — everything from a soccer ball, to school supplies, to a piglet.

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EXPERTS IN JUNK REMOVAL

Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

UOIT gets house

An 87-year-old Whitby resident, Stefania Dulemba, is returning to her native Poland to help build a shelter there, so she has signed over early her home and property she and her late husband Alexsander willed to the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Rhythm writing for the stage

Composer's 'bitter pill': It's best if no one notices your music

Backstage Pass

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

While the music industry struggles to keep up with the Internet, the technology has made composing for stage and film easier than ever.

From his Halifax base, musician Jason Michael MacIsaac can work anywhere. "A short jaunt to Toronto replaces three weeks in Toronto," he says over tea in a local café.

He writes scores for plays, films and commercials, and is also in a band called the Heavy Blinkers. "There's not one aspect of my career that allows me my extremely epicurean lifestyle," he jokes, taking a bite out of his peanut-butter bagel.

Usually, a composer's job is to write music that no one notices. "That's a bitter pill to swallow," he says, but he understands that badly timed music can wreck a play. "If you have a pivotal moment when someone says, 'Oh, you didn't know I'm a vampire?' and you don't hear that line, for the rest of the play you're like, 'Why's he sucking blood?'"

As a composer, you can work anywhere, says Halifax-based musician Jason Michael MacIsaac.

That's generally true for films, too. MacIsaac wrote the music for 2003's Touch and Go, which featured a "pre-Ellen Page Ellen Page," as he puts it.

Earlier this year, he got a chance most stage composers only dream of: He worked on Poor Boy, a pop music fantasia by Halifax's Zuppa Theatre.

"It was a play born out of the music that myself and (collaborator) Dave Christensen created. Every action, every piece of dialogue, was after the music," he smiles. The actors also played the music, presenting further compositional challenges. "You can't be stuck at your cello if you have to go from stage left to stage right in under 10 seconds, so a lot of the arrangement becomes stripped down."

That's a common concern: What the composer creates in his head may be too expensive or cumbersome for the play. "It's heartbreaking when a song gets dropped. There's a song in Poor Boy that it kills me every time I don't hear it," he says. "It's 'Look at me, look at me!' Then all of a sudden, it's not about me anymore. I'm at the service of the play."

McMaster University in Ontario, Bishop's University in Quebec and University of Lethbridge in Alberta are among the institutions that offer classes combining music with theatre, film and television. Many musicians either study music and then apply it to stage, or simply learn music on their own and then turn professional.

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

Keeping all the old masterworks perfect

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Few man-made things last forever. Buildings, books and bridges crumble if no one takes care of them.

Paintings in particular discolour, tear and get damaged over the years when they're on display, being handled and getting shipped.

Conservators try to both reverse and prevent damage to paintings as well as sculptures, books and artifacts.

Claude Belleau, 48, heard about this unique career around the time he was starting an art history degree at Concordia University in Montreal.

Growing up in nearby Chambly, Belleau loved to paint and draw, and he also had a passion for history. (Easy to do in a town that boasts Fort Chambly, built in 1711.)

"As far back as I can remember I loved looking at books with old masters' paintings. I was as young as 13 or 14 when I was looking at that stuff."

It took two tries, but Belleau eventually got into the masters program in art conservation at Queen's University in Kingston, the only such program in Canada.

The degree blended art with science, and Belleau learned about how paint pigments decay and how temperature and humidity can either preserve or break down materials.

After graduation, Belleau got experience in Quebec City and in Belgium, and ended up spending 20 years at the Museé National des Beaux-Arts du Québec as staff conservator.

Looking for a change, Belleau joined the Glenbow Museum in Calgary three months ago.

At work, he examines paintings from the museum's collection, pieces that have been borrowed or works that the museum wants to buy. He then writes reports on what he sees. For the museum's pieces, he'll propose repairs.

Those suggestions are then approved or rejected by the museum either based on time (sometimes there just isn't enough if a show is about to go up) or concerns about risk to the painting.

He also meets with other staff members to consult on preventing risk to paintings and makes suggestions on, for instance, safe shipping.

He also spends time in the museum's lab, which he shares with two other conservators (one works with paper, the other with artifacts). There, he relies on special tables and other equipment to repair holes, redo finishes, remount canvases and do touch-ups with pigment.

"It's very precise work. It requires dexterity. And you need to be patient," says Belleau.

The Lowdown

Best Part of the Job: "To be in contact with the collections. Going beyond just the surface appearance of the painting to see how it was made and see the artist's intent."

Worst Part of the Job: "It's frustrating not to always be able to do everything you want to do to a work, often because of time constraints."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Octomom TV series

Octomom Nadya Suleman has signed agreements for her 14 children to star in a reality television show, Entertainment Weekly reports. Each of Suleman's children will earn $250 per day according to the contracts. Filming begins this fall. EW.COM

Entertainment

Not guilty

A British judge acquitted Amy Winehouse on Friday of assaulting a fan who asked to take her picture. The singer was found not guilty of punching dancer Sherene Flash. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Celebrities light up Comic Con

New Moon hysteria grips event as Cameron, Burton preview projects

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The 40th annual San Diego International Comic Con attracted an estimated 125,000 fans of film, TV, video games and comic books for four days of beautiful weather, celebrity sightings and previews of upcoming blockbusters.

GETTY IMAGES

(Left) Actor Johnny Depp and director Tim Burton speak at the Alice in Wonderland press conference during Comic Con; Taylor Lautner, left, Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson add some glamour to Comic Con during their appearance for the New Moon panel.

While some worried the convention had strayed beyond its comic book roots to become a Hollywood marketing event, fans of all stripes celebrated their favourite pastimes with vigour — and more than a few interesting homemade costumes.

The biggest Hollywood-related draws of the festival were from veteran director James Cameron, who unveiled 25 minutes of footage from his long-awaited 3-D film, Avatar. Also on display for the first time were toys and concept art related to the film.

But perhaps even more anticipated — and the cause for more controversy — was the panel previewing New Moon, the latest in the Twilight series. Fans of the book and film franchise camped out the day and night before the panel, overtaking the 6,500-capacity Hall H, to the chagrin of fans hoping to attend other panels scheduled the same day.

Another piece of news was word that a sequel to the 1980s hit Tron is in fact on its way, as Jeff Bridges, star of the original, was happy to report. Principal filming has been completed, Bridges confirmed, but was intentionally cagey on plot details.

Tim Burton was on hand to preview his next big film, Alice in Wonderland, and even brought along star Johnny Depp as a surprise. "It's been years since I've been to Comic Con," Burton said.

"It's so great to be back." He was also on hand to promote the animated film, 9, for which he served as producer. The film is due out next month.

First-time director Mike Dougherty was particularly thrilled to be bringing his horror film Trick or Treat to the convention, where was screened in front of a capacity crowd Thursday night.

"These are my people. I've been coming here as a fan for 11 years," Dougherty, who also co-wrote Superman Returns and X-Men 2, explained. "It's like coming home."

Batman coming?

• Holy start date, Batman fans! Actor Gary Oldman, who starred in the recent blockbuster Batman movies let it slip on Friday that a new flick about the crime-fighting superhero is set to start filming next year — but you didn't hear it from him.

Oldman, who played Commissioner Gordon in director Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins and The Dark Knight was promoting another movie, thriller The Book of Eli, at the Comic Con in San Diego when he was asked about plans for a third movie in Nolan's hit series. "We start filming the next Batman next year, which means it won't come out for another two years," he said, before adding in a sly tone, "but you didn't hear that from me."

No details of a third Nolan Batman flick have ever been announced and a Warner Bros. spokeswoman declined to comment. REUTERS

New deal struck in Idol

TV American Idol executive producer/showrunner Ken Warwick has signed a three-year deal with the show's co-producer, FremantleMedia North America, to remain at the helm of television's top-rated series.

The pact, said to be well into the eight-figure range, is believed the richest for a reality-show showrunner.

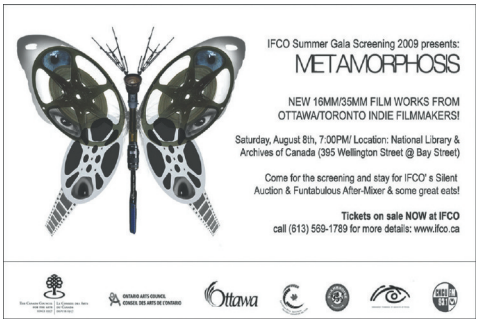
It comes on the heels of another three-year deal — a $45 million agreement inked recently by host Ryan Seacrest with Idol co-producer 19 Entertainment — that broke a money record for a reality host.

FremantleMedia declined comment on Warwick's deal.

Warwick has been on Fox's Idol, created by Simon Fuller, since the show's first episode in 2000.

He was co-showrunner for the first seven seasons alongside Nigel Lythgoe and became sole showrunner when Lythgoe left last summer.

REUTERS



Firm eyes diamonds from MJ's hair

Since Michael Jackson's sudden death on June 25, the rumour mill over details of his bizarre personal life has ground away nearly non-stop, and on Friday, one company said it was turning his hair into diamonds. That one is true.

The claims this week included a report in Rolling Stone magazine that a prosthetic nose he wore apparently went missing when he was taken to the morgue, and a British tabloid trumpeted a headline that he fathered a secret love-child.

In one by-product of the Thriller singer's death, a Chicago company said on Friday it had obtained some of the hair Jackson burned while filming a 1984 Pepsi commercial and planned to create a limited edition of diamonds from it.

"Absolutely this is for real," said Dean VandenBiesen, founder of LifeGem, which has a patent on a process that extracts carbon from hair, turns it into crystals and then into high-quality laboratory diamonds.

THOMAS PETER/REUTERS

A sand sculpture of late pop icon Michael Jackson is seen in a shopping mall in Berlin Saturday.

VandenBiesen told Reuters he thought the company could make about 10 diamonds. No sale price has been set but VandenBiesen said LifeGem created three diamonds from locks of Beethoven's hair in 2007, and sold one of them for around $200,000.

Separately, the Aug. 6 issue of Rolling Stone magazine reported that not only was the left arm of Jackson's dead body "scored with needle marks" — claims that have arisen before , but he wore an artificial nose that was missing when he was taken to the Los Angeles county morgue.

"The prosthesis that he normally attached to his damaged nose was missing, revealing bits of cartilage surrounding a small dark hole," the magazine said in an un-sourced report.

Moonwalk again

• Publishers including Random House have bought the rights to reprint Michael Jackson's 1988 autobiography, Moonwalk. The book, in which the late pop icon talks of his fame, and career, will be released in October.

REUTERS

While that report could not be confirmed, Los Angeles coroner's officials did say earlier this week they were probing security breaches in their offices.

The coroner's office is expected to release an official cause of death next week, which could shed light on some of the reports, including Jackson's possible use of powerful drugs.

And even as custody of Jackson's three children is set to be decided in court on Aug. 3, The Sun newspaper speculated the singer may have had a love-child raised in Norway. REUTERS

Author Harris dead

E. Lynn Harris, a pioneer of gay black fiction and a literary entrepreneur has died, his publicist said Friday. The 54-year-old author was best known for such successful novels as Invisible Life, Just As I Am and Abide With Me. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Out of Raconteurs' shadow

Brendan Benson harbours no illusions about why people might know his name. "I've been making records on my own for a long time," the Nashville-based singer-songwriter says, "but it wasn't until the Raconteurs that I experienced real success."

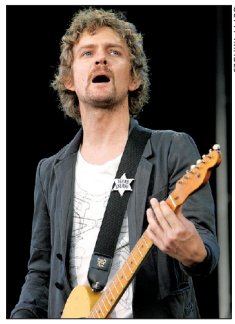
The Raconteurs, of course, are the popular garage-rock outfit Benson formed in 2005 with Jack White of the White Stripes, and Benson isn't exaggerating about the spike in popularity: At 522,000 copies (according to Nielsen SoundScan), the Raconteurs Broken Boy Soldiers has sold nearly 20 times as many copies as Benson's bestselling solo album, 2005's The Alternative to Love.

But, although Benson says he's willing to do whatever it takes to promote his new album, My Old, Familiar Friend (due Aug. 18 from ATO), there's one thing he won't allow: a shrink-wrap sticker describing him as a member of the Raconteurs.

"I want to do this on my own merit," Benson says, "and if it's successful, I'd like it to be something I can be proud of, to be able to say, 'This is my accomplishment,' without riding on anyone's coattails. The other thing is, people who don't know my solo stuff and who are only fans of the Raconteurs, they might be disappointed if this record is marketed that way. It's really nothing like the Raconteurs, so it's a matter of not tricking people."

Like Benson's earlier solo work, My Old, Familiar Friend is a collection of impeccably crafted power-pop long on catchy melodies and lovelorn lyrics. Uptempo numbers like A Whole Lot Better and Poised and Ready work up some respectable guitar fuzz, but the Gil Norton-produced set also contains much more delicate material, such as Gonowhere, a dreamy, Todd Rundgren-esque ballad.

According to ATO marketing director Jon Salter, the label shares Benson's desire to sell Friend without "piggybacking off the Jack White connection." (Benson says with a laugh that he was surprised ATO agreed to forgo the sticker.) Naturally, Salter says, the label wants to put the new album in front of the Raconteurs' sizable fan base — "but in an organic way that acknowledges Brendan's history and the beautiful records he's made." REUTERS



GETTY IMAGES

Raconteurs member Brendan Benson is about to release another solo album.

"I want to do this on my own merit ... without riding anyone's coattails."
Brendan Benson

Plum tackles love and crime

Finger Lickin' **Fifteen**

Author: Janet Evanovich
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $35.95 (Hardcover)

The 15th instalment in Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum mystery series sees her leading lady try to solve two sets of crimes while balancing her assorted love life and quirky characters she encounters throughout. The lingerie buyer-turned-bounty hunter is on the prowl to discover who killed celebrity chef Stanley Chipotle in a Trenton, N.J., alleyway. Key evidence is companion and sole witness Lula's entrance into the barbecue competition at which Chipotle was poised to appear. Meanwhile, Plum is put to test to find the inside man responsible for burgling clients of a security firm.

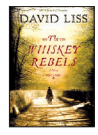
Tomato **Rhapsody**

Author: Adam Schell
Publisher: Delacorte Press
Price: $28.95 (Hardcover)

In this debut tale of sundry literary inspirations, Adam Schell traces the fantastic fictional account of how the tomato came to Italy. In pseudo-Shakespearean fashion, Schell introduces a tiny 16th century Tuscan village and its comic, rhyme-speaking residents. Jewish farmer Davido is given a pass by the village priest to bring the tomato to town, but the fruit quickly becomes a catalyst for controversy. Davido becomes the apple of Catholic Mari's eye, but love appears forbidden, considering her stepfather is novel villain Giuseppe. The course of true love never did run smooth, and this couple's desire is no exception.

The Whiskey **Rebels**

Author: David Liss
Publisher: Ballantine Books
Price: $17.50 (Hardcover)



In 18th century America, once-touted spy Ethan Saunders has become a down-and-out drunk living in Philadelphia after being accused of treason. But he comes to the call of his old flame Cynthia, who left him earlier for brutal businessman Jacob Pearson, when her new beau vanishes. In an attempt to find Pearson, Saunders stumbles upon a band of rural moonshiners — including one of their wives, Joan Maycott — who aims to topple Alexander Hamilton's Bank of the United States due to his proposed whiskey tax. Using intricate historical detail, Liss explores the plights of both Saunders and Maycott.

— BRIAN COULTON /FOR METRO CANADA

BookPicks

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **G-Force:** $32.1 million US
2. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Price:** $30 million
3. **The Ugly Truth:** $27 million
4. **Orphan:** $12.7 million
5. **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs:** $8.2 million
6. **Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen:** $8 million
7. **The Hangover:** $6.4 million
8. **The Proposal:** $6.4 million
9. **Public Enemies:** $4.1 million
10. **Brüno:** $2.7 million

REUTERS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

primetime — 7/27/09

DT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
cable variety	265	353	2 TVO	Time Team		The Best of The Agenda		Marking Time		Immigrants	Immigrants	Best-Agenda
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV PA)		Lie to Me "Do No Harm"		The Unit		News
	-	-	5 SRC	Des squelettes	La Petite vie	Chère Betty (HDTV) (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Ontario
	209	342	6 CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7 CTV	Hollywood	Corner Gas	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News
	208	303	8 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Triple Sensation (DVS)		Just for Laughs		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9 NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Great American Road Trip (N)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		The Wanted (N)		News
	117	713	10 TVA	Les Gags	Sketch Show	Laura Cadieux	Km/h (SC)	Monk (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Enfant-loup*
	-	-	11 QS	C't'une joke	C't'une joke	CSI: NY (SC)		Private Practice (SC)		La violence dans le sport		Call TV
	137	763	12 TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*Le Souffle au coeur* ★★★ (1971, Com. dramatique)				Esprit
	-	362	13 CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		How I Met	Engagement	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14 OMN2	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Redux China
	214	344	15 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N)				(10:02) Dating in the Dark		News
	115	343	16 CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	Engagement	The Soup	Wildest TV	Final 24 (N)		News/Eleven
	-	361	20 ABC	Action News	Entertainment	The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N)				(10:02) Dating in the Dark		News
	512	396	24 CPAC	Tête-à-tête	Beyond Poli	L'Heure politique		Comités du Sénat				Heure polit.
	651	355	25 CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36 FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House (HDTV PA)		Lie to Me "Do No Harm"		FOX 2 News (N)		News
	-	-	64 PBS	Business Rpt.	Wings-Canada	Antiques Roadshow		History Detectives (N)		Make 'em Laugh: Funny		Charlie Rose
	205	312	104 CTV	Hollywood	Corner Gas	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Our World	The Hour Jason Mewes.		CBC News: The National		Pakistan's Taliban Generation		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27 net	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Tampa Bay Rays. (HDTV) (Live)						MLB Baseball: Blue Jays at Mariners		
	126	730	28 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30 TSN	Boxing: Maidana vs. Ortiz		Boxing Friday Night Fights. (HDTV)				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	410	403	52 SCR	RaceNight				(9:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				Score Tonight
	411	457	56 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	59 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy (N)
family	554	544	48 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	557	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65 YTV	The Next Star 2		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	The Next Star 2		Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29 MM	The Daily Fix		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!				Entourage	Gene Simmons	I'm a Celebrity
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Sylvia"		Intervention "Danielle"		Obsessed (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Jesse James Is a Dead Man		*Today You Die* (2005, Action)		
	521	560	34 TLC	18 Kids-Count	Little Couple	Dancing Tweens (HDTV)		Little Parents, Big Pregnancy		Cake Boss (N)	Cake Boss	Dancing
	145	761	35 TV5	Secrets d'histoire			Trésors du val de Loire				Maritime	Journal TV5
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	*Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict* (2008, Docudrama)				House
	620	523	40 BVO	(6) Street Legal		Boheme				Raising Valhalla		Law & Order
	520	505	42 DIS	Daily Planet		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs		American Loggers (N)		Daily Planet
	575	583	43 CMT	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Greatest
	601	562	45 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Newlywed	Nearly Dead	Nearly Dead	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada
	625	548	46 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jamie Foxx Unleashed: Lost		Daily Show
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Mississippi Burning* ★★★ (1988, Drama) Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe.				
	600	564	49 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Solar Attack* (2006, Science Fiction) Louis Gossett Jr..				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53 MTV	The Real World		Daddy's Girls	Daddy's Girls	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant "Maci"		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Once a Thief		Carlawood (N)	Prod. Parker	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Weekend
	522	506	55 HIS	NCIS "Suspicion"		Tank Overhaul		Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Suspicion"		Nuclear Sharks
	129	773	60 CD	Biographies		Voyage d'enfer "Népal"		Images-chocs (Partie 2 de 2)		Scènes de crime (HDTV)		Pris au piège
	261	394	61 V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	Summer Wine	SOUL "Exile"		Secret Files of the Inquisition		Poltergeist
	602	567	62 W	Style by Jury	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		*Guilt by Association* ★★ (2002, Drama)		
	269	350	70 APTN	Notre Peuple		Tam	Pachamama	*Chasseurs de loups, chasseurs d'or* (1994, Aventures)				Tshinanu
	621	527	71 TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Hollywood	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	603	561	95 FN	Chef at Home	Chuck-Day Off	Food Jammers	Glutton-Punish.	Food Detective	Get on Plate	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant

critics'corner

Rules of Engagement
Admit it, you've done it: accepted an invitation and then tried to wiggle out of it when something better came up. Jeff and Audrey lie to get out of going to a party that Jennifer and Adam are hosting after they get invited to a party they think will be much cooler. 8:30 PM on 13 CBS 18 E!

The Bachelorette
Jillian Harris, the 29-year-old Vancouver-based beauty who had her romantic dreams crushed when Jason Mesnick passed her over in the last season of "The Bachelor," doesn't have to worry about history repeating itself: She's the one making her choice for her ideal romantic mate as the hit reality series closes out its latest season. 8 PM on 20 ABC 15 CITY

Guilt by Association
Actress Mercedes Ruehl stars in this 2002 made-for-cable drama as a woman who discovers her boyfriend is a drug dealer when she is brought up on drug charges. Wrongly convicted, she battles for her freedom. 10 PM on 62 W

Kutcher says Barton's fine

Despite Mischa Barton's week-long stay at a L.A. hospital psychiatric ward, Ashton Kutcher claims the actress is "doing great" and is headed to New York to work on her new show, The Beautiful Life, which Kutcher is producing. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay eyes sweet venture

PROSPECT Lindsay Lohan wants to design her own range of candies, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress wants to team up with Sugar Factory, a firm that manufactures "couture lollipops," for a range of confectionary.

A source said: "Lindsay wants to either be the face for a new line of advertisements or design her own range."

The 23-year-old star — who has completed three stints in rehab — has been regularly pictured sucking on lollipops recently, and it has been suggested she uses them to stop from returning to her vices.

A source said: "Lindsay said she's using it to distract herself from smoking and drinking."

If the plan goes ahead, it would not be the first time Lohan has turned her hand to an unusual enterprise.

She currently has her own range of leggings, called 6126, and released her own brand of fake tan Sevin Nyne earlier this year.

She has also modelled for several fashion houses, including Fornarina, and has her own production company called Unforgettable Productions.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vanessa settles into new home

GROWING UP Vanessa Hudgens is obsessed with cleaning, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress recently moved into a new home and is beginning to realize how difficult she used to make life for her mother.

She said: "There is a struggle to keep the place clean. I'm always in my kitchen scrubbing down the counters and doing the dishes. I understand how my mom feels now."

Although Hudgens loves living alone, she admits it causes concern for her friends and family.

The 20-year-old added: "I feel completely safe in my house but all my friends are scared for me. And of course I can tell my parents panic a little.

"The best thing about living alone is being able to have my friends come over whenever."

Vanessa bought her Tuscan-style California mansion for $2.75 million US last year.

The six-bedroom property boasts hardwood and stone floors, six bathrooms and a swimming pool with spa, waterfalls and a barbecue island.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Grieving John having crisis of faith?

FALLOUT Friends of John Travolta are concerned for the reclusive star's health. The actor has been taking midnight drives in a golf cart alone across his Jumbolair estate in Florida, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

He is said to be unable to sleep, grief-stricken over the recent death of his teenaged son, Jett.

The late-night drives are a regular occurrence, according to one local resident.

A neighbour said: "We often see John driving himself around at night. It's sad to see. You rarely catch sight of him during the day. We used to see him driving around on a buggy with his son. Now it's just John by himself."

Jett died after suffering a seizure while on a family holiday in the Bahamas in January.

Since the tragedy, Travolta has admitted Jett was suffering from autism, going against Scientology, which does not acknowledge autism as a medical condition.

After his death, it was claimed Jett may not have been taking conventional medication for the condition, but rather detox programs and vitamins.

It is also rumoured Travolta is thinking of leaving the religion after 35 years, because his faith has been so "deeply shaken" by his son's death.

If the star — who has donated millions of dollars to the religion — does leave, the church is likely to react badly, according to Rick Ross, an author and lecturer on Scientology.

"(The church) has proven in the past that it has a penchant for releasing that information to embarrass people who have left and who have said things it doesn't like. That's why I think Travolta will want to keep his problems with the Church private." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate coming to terms with split

BIG STEP As her estranged husband Jon Gosselin gallivants around New York City and the Hamptons with other women, Kate Gosselin has taken a more subtle step toward a new life: She's removed her wedding band, people.com reports.

The reality star was photographed Friday for the first time without her ring during a coffee run near her Pennsylvania home.

Just last month, removing the ring seemed like a symbolic gesture that she was not yet ready to make.

"I haven't taken off my ring," she told People at the time. "It would devastate my kids. It's not necessary. I was looking at it while I was in the shower this morning, and I thought, I'm not taking it off. I'm not ready."

Ready or not, Jon has made it clear he's prepared to move ahead into single life after a decade of marriage. He went to Saint-Tropez with his new 22-year-old girlfriend, Hailey Glassman, rented a bachelor pad in Manhattan, and then holed up at Michael Lohan's house in Long Island with a tabloid reporter.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

LeAnn's marriage over amid affair rumours?

BREAKUP LeAnn Rimes opened up about relationships gone wrong during her performance at the Deer Valley Music Festival in Utah Saturday night, usmagazine.com reports.

"It is inevitable that sometimes in a relationship, you will have your heart broken," said the singer, who is separated from her husband of seven years, Dean Sheremet.

"Sometimes you don't do anything, but sometimes you want revenge. Sometimes you don't, and that's when you just leave it in God's hands."

Rimes, 26, was not wearing her wedding ring on stage.

On Saturday, a source told Us that Rimes and Sheremet are "leading separate lives … but still in each other's lives as best friends. They are not divorcing yet, but working though things and taking time apart … while they figure things out."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-vegan Gwyneth tries chicken

CHANGE OF HEART Gwyneth Paltrow has apparently changed her tune when it comes to eating meat.

The previously devout vegan — who claimed last year that she hadn't eaten meat in 15 years — posted a cooking video recently to her website, Goop, in which she prepares roast chicken.

"My grandmother taught me how to wash chickens, which is to take handfuls of kosher salt, wet the chicken with cold water, scrub inside and out, rinse and dry so it's all nice and ready," she said before deboning the bird on camera.

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Love at very first sight for Marc

INSTANT ATTRACTION Marc Anthony proposed to Jennifer Lopez within seconds of meeting her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — father to 17-month-old twins Max and Emme with Lopez, whom he married in 2004 — was convinced he would spend the rest of his life with the brunette beauty when they first met in the 1990s.

Anthony revealed: "She came to see me backstage at a theatre. As soon as she walked through the door I don't know what hit me. But I probably said the worst thing. I said, 'You're my wife and you don't even know it,' and she was like, 'Excuse me? Well that's intense.' I had no idea where that came from. But she was very cute and now she gets it! She's my girl."

The pair briefly dated after their first meeting, but both went onto marry other people before reuniting.

Lopez has recently revealed she would love to expand her brood with Anthony, but is determined not to get obsessed with having children.

She said: "I would love to have more kids. I don't know if we will. I don't know if that's in the cards for us but we'll see."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Usher's ex no gold digger: Pal

IN HER DEFENCE Usher's estranged wife isn't a gold digger, insists her friend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Tameka Foster — who has two children, 19-month-old Usher V and eight-month-old Naviyd Ely, with the musician — is tired of rumours suggesting the makeup artist only married Usher to get her hands on his fortune.

Nyeisha Dewitt, Tameka's best pal, said: "To say that she's a gold digger … that's just not the case.

"People say that she just had a baby so that she could get paid. Why can't you just be a regular person who has a wonderful job, a great career, who's well respected for the work that they do, and be happy with that and then just fall in love with someone? Then you turn into a gold digger? How does that happen?"

Usher filed for divorce from his wife of two years in June, claiming they had been living apart for almost a year.

He has also filed for joint custody of Raymond and Naviyd.

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Wednesday 40% Showers 28°/ 19°

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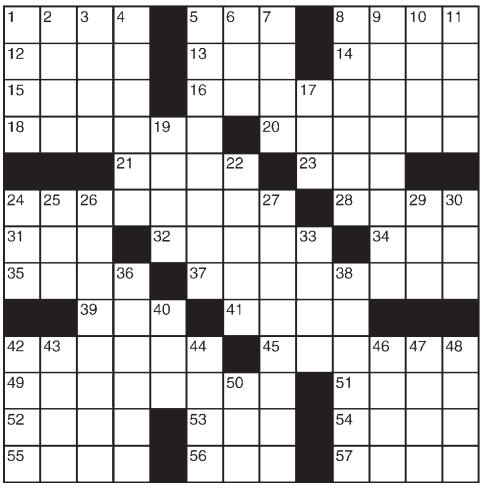
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Graceful bird
5 Crafty
8 Being (Latin)
12 Honolulu's home
13 Nay canceler
14 Author Bellow
15 United nations
16 Certain lenses
18 First U.S. space station
20 Chopping spree?
21 Cupid's alias
23 Scepter
24 Manicurist's concerns
28 Had on
31 Simile center
32 Ravi Shankar's instrument
34 Charged particle
35 Dull sound of impact
37 Office work areas
39 — Aviv
41 Mexican money
42 Headache aid
45 "The Colbert —"
49 Handcuffs
51 Entreaty
52 Tarzan's clique
53 Eggs
54 Verve
55 Protuberance
56 Kitten's comment
57 St. Louis team

DOWN

1 Weeps loudly
2 Stroll
3 "Hi, sailor!"
4 Cell centers
5 Representative
6 Cancer, —, Virgo
7 Tug
8 Money set aside
9 Dressing ingredient
10 Fat
11 Otherwise
17 Rowing need
19 Curved lines
22 Arrangement
24 Garfield or Heathcliff
25 Show to a seat, slangily
26 Got rid of slack
27 Workshop cutter
29 Caviar base
30 Em halves
33 Obey reveille
36 Lower in status
38 Kettle material
40 Varnish ingredient
42 "— Old Cowhand"
43 Mafia boss
44 Grab (onto)
46 Earthenware pot
47 500 sheets of paper
48 Catches some rays
50 Previous night

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

4						6	1	
2				7	5		8	
	1							
			5		3	9		
	7	3	8		1	4	2	
		5	7		9			
							3	
	3		6	8				1
	8	4						2

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	M	C		P	A	W	N		C	U	R	L		
B	I	O		E	C	H	O		E	S	P	Y		
U	N	D	E	R	T	O	W		L	A	M	E		
T	H	E	R	M	O		I	R	E					
			A	I	R		S	U	B	W	A	Y		
B	L	A	S	T		F	E	E		O	R	E		
R	O	V	E		S	I	R		R	O	L	L		
A	G	O		M	A	X		A	E	S	O	P		
D	O	W	N	O	N		M	R	S					
			A	D	D		A	G	E	O	L	D		
O	B	I	T		B	E	L	O	W	P	A	R		
P	A	C	T		O	A	T	S		A	V	E		
T	R	E	Y		X	R	A	Y		L	A	W		

3	9	5	4	6	1	8	2	7
4	2	8	9	7	3	6	5	1
7	6	1	2	5	8	9	4	3
5	4	7	1	8	2	3	6	9
2	1	9	6	3	5	7	8	4
6	8	3	7	9	4	2	1	5
8	5	4	3	2	7	1	9	6
1	7	6	8	4	9	5	3	2
9	3	2	5	1	6	4	7	8

On the web

Find more games to play + more cartoons by the Six Chix at metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Four Seasons Pizza

INGREDIENTS:

PIZZA DOUGH

2 1/2 cups (625 ml) white bread or plain flour
7 g sachet dried yeast
1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
Between 1/4 and 1 cup (about 200 ml) tepid water

TOPPINGS

5 oz (150 g) baby leeks, trimmed and sliced
4 oz (125 g) mushrooms, sliced
1 tbsp (15 ml) white wine vinegar
4 large grilled red pepper pieces, drained and thickly sliced
2/3 cup (150 ml) canned artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
2/3 cup (150 ml) tomato paste
1 tbsp (15 ml) tapenade
1 oz (50 g) prosciutto, thinly sliced
1/4 cup (50 ml) pitted black olives, sliced
1/2 cup (125 ml) semi-dried tomatoes, chopped
1/2 cup (125 ml) grated mozzarella cheese
A few fresh sprigs of oregano

METHOD:

1. Mix flour, yeast and salt in large bowl. Make well in centre and stir in olive oil with enough tepid water to make smooth dough. Turn dough out onto lightly floured surface and knead five minutes until smooth and elastic. Place dough back in rinsed-out and lightly oiled bowl, then cover with damp dishcloth or oiled plastic wrap and leave in warm place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.
2. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400°F (200°C) and prepare toppings. Put leeks in pot with mushrooms and vinegar, cover and cook on high heat 3–4 minutes, shaking pot occasionally, until softened. Mix peppers with artichokes. Mix garlic into tomato paste.
3. Turn out risen dough onto lightly floured surface and knock back, knead lightly, then roll out or press out with knuckles to about 12in. (30–32 cm) round on lightly greased baking tray.
4. Spread tomato paste mixture evenly over pizza base, then pile leeks and mushrooms over one-quarter of dough and peppers and artichokes over second quarter. Over third quarter, dot tapenade and scrunch prosciutto on top. Spread olives and tomatoes over last quarter. Sprinkle cheese over whole pizza.
5. Bake pizza 30 minutes until golden around edges and lightly browned on top. Scatter some sprigs of oregano over pizza, cut into slices and serve piping hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
No matter how many serious things may be going on in your life at the moment you are determined to go out and have a good time.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may be in the middle of a winning streak but don't take your good fortune for granted.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You will feel good about yourself today, but one thing you won't feel is the desire to do anything strenuous, so don't overdo it.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You like to ponder the big questions of life but today you must put them to the back of your mind and focus on more practical issues.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
The Sun in your sign will make it easy to believe that all things are possible — as indeed they are — but don't get carried away.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll find it easy to get your own way today: Other people seem mesmerized by your glamour and will do whatever it takes to please you.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The more you look at the world around you the more you will realize there is a pattern to your existence.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
It's not like you to be so free and easy with your cash but you seem determined to lavish gifts on everyone.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Reach out and touch someone special today. Let them know that your feelings for them are as strong as ever.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may be desperate to make a good impression on people who can help you career-wise, but don't run yourself into the ground.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Venus, planet of affection, makes a perfect angle to Jupiter in your birth sign today, so you will be lucky in love and lucky with money.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You've had a lot on your plate in recent weeks and may have been too busy to spend much time with your nearest and dearest.

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